

Chicago Father's Day Weekend Citizenship Event June 19 Announced

(Chicago, IL) – Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) has been assisting Chicago residents in accessing and completing the U.S. citizenship process for fifteen years and this coming Father's Day weekend, the 50,000th person to move through the program is expected to participate in a special citizenship workshop. "Ayudando como Hermanos a los Nuevos Ciudadanos" ("Helping Our New Citizens Like Brothers") - the citizenship workshop model developed by Congressman Gutierrez and now replicated all over the country, began in 1995. At a press conference today at his Chicago District office on West North Avenue, the Congressman was joined by community leaders and local elected officials as he announced that there will be special recognition given to the 50,000th citizen.

"Fifteen years ago, I had to ask special permission from the then-Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to conduct workshops to help eligible immigrants navigate the bureaucratic barriers to U.S. citizenship." Rep. Gutierrez said. "Now, what we started in Chicago is a model for Congressional Offices and non-profit groups across the country."

The 50,000th person to move through the program on the road to U.S. citizenship will participate in the Citizenship Workshop hosted by Rep. Gutierrez, in conjunction with Centro Sin Fronteras and the New American Initiative, scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. at West Side Tech (2800 S. Western) on June 19. See accompanying flyer for more details.

At the press conference Monday, Rep. Gutierrez was joined by State Representative Luis Arroyo, State Representative Maria Antonia Berrios, State Senator William Delgado, Cook County Commissioner Jesus Garcia, State Senator Iris Martinez, Alderman Ricardo Munoz, Cook County Commissioner Edwin Reyes, Alderman Daniel Solis, State Representative Cynthia Soto, and community leaders who have worked with Rep. Gutierrez' to promote citizenship.

"There is no more important step an immigrant can take than to step up, go through the process, and take the oath of citizenship," Rep. Gutierrez said. "The U.S. makes it too hard and too expensive, but with a little help, we have helped almost 50,000 aspirants become new Americans. That is huge benefit to Chicago and the nation and it goes way beyond the tens of thousands of families. It strengthens our community and our democracy and I couldn't be prouder of anything we have accomplished for the Fourth District and Chicago."

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